

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 13862 211203Z
ACTION NEA-10

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DEPT ALSO PASS AID

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH SADAT--HUMPHREY AMENDMENT

1. IN COURSE OF MY MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AND
VP MUBARAK IN ALEXANDRIA, AUGUST 20, I REMINDED THE
PRESIDENT THAT SENATOR STONE HAD SOME TWO MONTHS AGO
MENTIONED TO HIM THE INTER-AGENCY STUDY THAT IS PROPOSED
FOR THE AID PROGRAM TO EGYPT UNDER THE HUMPHREY AMENDMENT.
I TOLD HIM THAT THE LEGISLATION HAS NOW BEEN PASSED AND THAT
WE ARE GEARING OURSELVES UP TO CONDUCT AN IN-DEPTH
STUDY OF OUR AID FOR EGYPT. THIS STUDY WILL SHORTLY GET
UNDERWAY AND WILL INVOLVE NOT ONLY OFFICIALS FROM VARIOUS
DEPARTMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, BUT PROBABLY ALSO
CONSULTANTS. WE WILL, OF COURSE, ALSO WANT TO ASCERTAIN
THE VIEWS OF EGYPTIAN ECONOMISTS AND GOE OFFICIALS.

2. THE HUMPHREY AMENDMENT, I POINTED OUT, REFLECTS
SOME CONCERN IN THE CONGRESS THAT OUR AID PROGRAM IN
EGYPT MAY NOT BE AS EFFECTIVE AS IT COULD BE.
SPECIFICALLY, THE STUDY WILL SEEK TO ASCERTAIN IF IT
IS IN FACT ACHIEVING ITS OBJECTIVES; IF IT IS ADEQUATELY
MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE POOR AND NEEDY; WHAT MIGHT BE
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DONE TO ENCOURAGE THE PRIVATE SECTOR; HOW MIGHT THE
PROGRAM BE RESTRUCTURED IN THE YEARS AHEAD BETTER TO
MEET EGYPT'S DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS, ETC. ONCE
COMPLETED, THE STUDY MAY BE EXPECTED TO HELP SHARE OUR
AID PLANNING IN THE YEAR AHEAD. HENCE, WE CONSIDER IT
ESSENTIAL THAT WE WORK CLOSELY WITH OUR EGYPTIAN COLLEAGUES
ON THIS MATTER.

3. AID DIRECTOR AND I WOULD SHORTLY BE DISCUSSING SUBJECT WITH DEPUTY PRIMIN QAYSUNI TO SOLICIT LATTER'S SUPPORT IN OBTAINING ASAP A COPY OF THE NEWLY COMPLETED FIVE-YEAR PLAN AND ACCESS TO IBRD, IMF AND DR. MUELLER'S REPORTS. I WANTED THE PRESIDENT TO KNOW ABOUT THIS STUDY AND ITS PURPOSES AND HOPED HE TOO WOULD GIVE IT HIS SUPPORT.

4. SADAT, WHILE SOMEWHAT VAGUE ON THE STUDY, SAID HE WARMLY WELCOMED SUCH A STUDY. AS WE KNEW, HE IS MOST APPRECIATIVE OF USG ASSISTANCE, ALTHOUGH HE HAD CANDIDLY TO ADMIT THAT IT SOMETIMES FAILED TO MEET GOE REQUIREMENTS. HE WAS ESPECIALLY CONCERNED ABOUT HOW SLOWLY PROGRAM IS MOVING, BUT ADMITTED THAT PERHAPS GOE SIDE SHARES RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS SHORTCOMING. OUR REGULATIONS, HE NOTED, ARE AS COMPLICATED AS ARE THOSE OF EGYPT AND HE SOMETIMES THOUGHT EVEN MORE SO. I TOLD HIM THAT THE PROGRAM IS MOVING AS QUICKLY AS SOUND PLANNING PERMITS AND THAT GOVERNOR GILLIGAN, WHOM HE HAD MET, IS ATTEMPTING TO STREAMLINE SOME OF AID'S OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES.

5. ALLUDING TO ENCOURAGING THE PRIVATE SECTOR, SADAT SAID HE WOULD LIKE THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO ASSUME A GREATER ROLE IN THE EGYPTIAN ECONOMY. ANYTHING THAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO TO ENABLE IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO DO SO WOULD BE HELPFUL. I TOOK THE OCCASION TO SUGGEST IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF HE MADE HIS VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT KNOWN TO HIS MINISTERS WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO GET THE WORD DOWN THROUGH THE BUREAURACRACY. SADAT SAID HE WOULD DO SO.

6. SADAT ALSO ASKED THAT I INFORM THE PRIMIN OF THE PROPOSED STUDY. ADDITIONALLY, HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF WE CONSULTED WITH MINPLANNING ABDEL MEGUID. TOLD HIM I INTENDED ADVISE PRIMIN, WHEN I NEXT MEET HIM (MEETING NOW FIXED FOR COMING WEDNESDAY AT 1230 LOCAL). ABDEL MEGUID WILL CERTAINLY ALSO BE CONSULTED, AS WILL OTHER CONCERNED EGYPTIAN MINISTERS. THE PRESIDENT ASSURED ME HE WILL BE PLEASED TO GIVE SUCH SUPPORT TO THE STUDY AS WE REQUIRE. EILTS

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